

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Some children are diagnosed as having emotional and/or behavioral disorders, which preclude them from living in a family home. These children may require a structured, institutional setting and placement with residential child care agencies for treatment. Only children with the most severe problems are placed in residential treatment, and they are placed only temporarily. Our goal is to assure children are provided appropriate treatment services and when they are able to function in a less restrictive setting, they return to their own home, are placed in an adoptive home, are placed with a guardian, or for young adults, are prepared to live independently in the community.

In addition to providing room, board, and a greater level of supervision than a foster home can provide, additional funding for treatment services are available to children in residential treatment. Residential treatment provides specialized treatment services designed to improve the child's psychological and/or emotional functioning and bring about positive behavioral changes. These services include evaluation and diagnosis, counseling, educational services, recreational services and intense planning to provide effective treatment to facilitate the child's return to a less restrictive environment.

Certain residential treatment centers provide services under contract with the state of Missouri. Through contractual arrangements, the Missouri Department of Social Services is authorized to receive 75 percent of expenditures for short term training of members of child care institutions providing care to foster and adopted children. Allowable training costs include:

- Travel and per diem, books, and registration fees for staff attending training sessions away from the employee's work site, including institutes, seminars, or workshops related to the employee's job which are sponsored by professional organizations;
- Salaries, honoraria, professional fees, fringe benefits, travel and per diem for outside experts employed by the residential treatment center to develop or conduct staff training;
- Cost of rental space and equipment, postage, printing and duplication, teaching supplies, the purchase or lease of training equipment, and the development of teaching materials for staff training events;
- Cost of books, training aids, equipment, curriculum, and supplies used to maintain and operate a library as an essential resource in staff training;
- Travel and per diem, tuition books and educational supplies for staff in a part-time or full-time, short term training program;
- Salaries, fringe benefits and travel and per diem for staff development personnel, including support staff, assigned full-time to training functions; and

- Salaries, fringe benefits and travel and per diem for staff development personnel, but not support staff, assigned part-time to training functions to the extent time is spent performing such functions and the Provider develops and implements a methodology which allocates time spent by such staff to training functions.

Licensed residential child care agency staff are required to have initial orientation and a minimum of forty (40) hours of on-going training per year. Licensed child placing agency staff are required to have initial orientation and a minimum of twenty (20) hours of on-going training per year. In 2003 and 2004, the Children's Division (CD) Residential Program Unit (RPU) worked with staff from licensed Residential Child Care Agencies (RCCA) and the National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRCYS) to develop a training curriculum specific to the needs of the RCCA's. The curriculum, called "Strengthening the Culture of Care" provides a child-centered, strength-based approach to residential treatment. The NRCYS conducted two "train-the-trainer" sessions, in August of 2004, in which nearly all licensed RCCA's participated.

As of March 31, 2005, the CD had custody of 1,932 children receiving residential treatment services. As of February 28, 2005, 1850 children were receiving residential treatment services. Children requiring residential treatment may be placed in any of the following settings:

- Residential child care agency;
- Juvenile Court facilities;
- Medical facilities;
- Mental health facilities; or
- Special schools, such as the Missouri School for the Deaf

CD Regional offices are responsible for screening the referrals from the county offices. Designated Regional staff identify and select appropriate facilities, authorize services, manage the placement waiting list, and maintain the associated record keeping.

As of March 2005, there were eighty-four (84) licensed residential agencies operating at one hundred thirty-seven (137) separate sites, and seventy-one (71) child placing agencies, providing foster care and adoptive service at ninety-two (92) separate sites. Nineteen (19) residential child care agencies also have child placing licensure. CD expenditures for residential treatment in SFY-04 were \$69,672,125 and we estimate SFY-05 expenditures of \$74,835,026.